

THE LINCOLN CABINETS.

TWENTY-FIRST ADMINISTRATION.

March 4, 1861, to March 4, 1865.

President,	Abraham Lincoln, Ill.
Vice-President,	Hannibal Hamlin, Me.
State,	Jeremiah S. Black, Ia., re-appointed.
	William H. Seward, N. Y., March 5, 1861.
Treasury,	John A. Dix, N. Y., re-appointed.
	Salmon P. Chase, Ohio, March 5, 1861.
	David Tod, Ohio, June 30, 1864, declined.
	George Harrington, D. C. (<i>ad int.</i>) July 1, 1864.
	William P. Fessenden, Me., July 1, 1864.
	Edwin D. Morgan, N. Y., Feb. 13, 1865, declined.
War,	Joseph Holt, Ky., re-appointed.
	Simon Cameron, Pa., March 5, 1861.
Navy,	Edwin M. Stanton, Pa., Jan. 15, 1862.
	Isaac Toucey, Conn., re-appointed.
Interior,	Gideon Welles, Conn., March 5, 1861.
	Moses Kelly (<i>ad int.</i>).
	Caleb B. Smith, Ind., March 5, 1861.
	John P. Usher, Ind. (<i>ad int.</i>), Jan. 1, 1863.
Atty.-Gen'l,	John P. Usher, Ind., Jan. 8, 1863.
	Edwin M. Stanton, Pa., re-appointed.
	Edward Bates, Mo., March 5, 1861.
	Joseph Holt, Ky., Dec. 1, 1864, declined.
P. M. Gen'l,	James Speed, Ky., Dec. 2, 1864.
	Horatio King, Me., re-appointed.
	Montgomery Blair, Md., March 5, 1861.
	William Dennison, Ohio, Sept. 24, 1864.

TWENTY-SECOND ADMINISTRATION.

March 4, 1865, to April 15, 1865.

President,	Abraham Lincoln, Ill.
Vice-President,	Andrew Johnson, Tenn.
State,	William H. Seward, N. Y., re-appointed.
Treasury,	George Harrington (<i>ad int.</i>), March 4, 1865.
	Hugh McCulloch, Ind., March 7, 1865.
War,	Edwin M. Stanton, Pa., re-appointed.
Navy,	Gideon Welles, Conn., re-appointed.
Interior,	John P. Usher, Ind., re-appointed.
Atty.-Gen'l,	James Harlan, Iowa, March 9, 1865.
P. M. Gen'l,	James Speed, Ky., re-appointed.
	William Dennison, Ohio, re-appointed.

As this is the centenary month of the birth of Abraham Lincoln I pass over intervening administrations temporarily and take up his two cabinets, running from March 4, 1861, to March 4, 1865. This short period of four years covers the entire time when Mr. Lincoln was of great prominence, and the only period when people would have been likely to preserve his letters. The result is that most of his extant letters are dated during that time, are written as a rule on octavo sheets, mostly in his own hand, and to members of his cabinet recommending appointments. His early

letters are very rare, as they were naturally not preserved, except by accident. A few written when he was congressman are found, and quite a number of LS, written in response to congratulations when nominated for President in 1860. The body of these letters is generally in the hand of John G. Nicolay, and sometimes of Mrs. Lincoln. During the war he occasionally wrote long quarto letters to Gen. Grant and other generals, and, now and then, one like the famous Bixby letter condoling with a mother on the loss of her five sons in the war, and these are the most valuable of all his letters—the price sometimes running up in the hundreds. Mr. Lincoln was much in the habit of writing short notes on cards, or on the backs of letters received by him. There are some hundreds of these and they range in price from \$10 to \$25, depending on length and contents. An octavo letter ranges from \$25 upwards.

Mr. Lincoln as a rule signed his letters "A. Lincoln," while on official documents he wrote it out in full, Abraham Lincoln. As he signed all of the war commissions, army and navy, all postmasters, consuls, etc., and many other official papers, there are many thousands of these scattered over the country. They range in price from \$15 to \$25. Mr. Lincoln was always ready to write his name for any one who asked him, and he often appears in albums containing senators and congressmen. Some ten years ago some one got into the court records of Sangamon county, Illinois, and turned up several hundred legal papers entirely in his hand, and filed by him when a practicing lawyer. These covered a period of over twenty years and are variously signed, Stewart & Lincoln, Logan & Lincoln, Lincoln & Herndon and A. Lincoln. They range from a narrow strip up to four pages in length and are marked by the strong Saxon clearness of expression which distinguishes all of Mr. Lincoln's compositions. Their price varies from \$15 upwards, depending on whether they are signed or not. There are also extant a few poems by Mr. Lincoln, and some manuscripts of inaugural addresses and messages. Probably the most valuable is the manuscript of the immortal Gettysburg address on a sheet of octavo letter paper. The largest collections of Lincoln letters are owned by Charles F. Gunther, William H. Lambert and Charles W. McLellan.

The cabinet of Mr. Lincoln is collected more than any other cabinet—many collectors tak-

ing that alone in connection with the Civil War. Letters of Hannibal Hamlin are very common in all forms,—running from one to two dollars. Andrew Johnson is extremely rare. He is in fact the rarest of all the Presidential set. He never wrote well, having learned to write late in life, and he spelled badly,—besides he suffered from an injury to his arm. Many of his letters are written and signed by his son Andrew Johnson Jr.,—and even on his official documents he frequently used a rubber stamp. His letters range from \$25 to \$75, and his DS are about \$5.

Jeremiah S. Black is of moderate rarity—from \$2.50 to \$5.00.

William H. Seward is perhaps the commonest of all American political autographs. His DS are from 25 cts.—and his ALS from 50 cts. upwards. He wrote a very running hand often difficult to decipher.

John A. Dix is common,—from \$1 to \$3,—his war letters being the best. He wrote a very peculiar angular hand.

Salmon P. Chase is fairly common,—from \$1 upwards. Fine war quartos are as high as \$10,—when interesting. He ran all his letters and words together and is hard to read.

David Tod is rare,—\$2 to \$3.

George Harrington is common in DS (25 cts.) and rare in ALS (\$2 to \$3).

William P. Fessenden runs from \$1 to \$3. I have always been of the opinion that Mr. Fessenden was one of the great men of America,—and would have been a second Lincoln had the opportunity arisen.

E. D. Morgan is common, 50 cts. to \$1.

Joseph Holt is somewhat better than common, \$1 to \$3.

Simon Cameron is common. DS are 25 cts., and ALS \$1 to \$2.

E. M. Stanton, the great lieutenant of Mr. Lincoln, has always been rare. His letters range from \$3 upwards,—and DS \$1.50 upwards.

Isaac Toucey is common,—75 cts. to \$1 for ALS.

Gideon Welles is common in LS,—and rare in ALS,—the latter bringing \$2.50 to \$5.

Moses Kelly is rare,—because nobody ever collected him. A letter ought to be worth \$2.

Caleb B. Smith is rare. He wrote a big black hand,—and the price is from \$3 to \$5.

John P. Usher is rare—\$2.50 to \$4.

Edward Bates is fairly rare. His handwriting greatly resembles that of Mr. Lincoln. \$2 to \$5.

James Speed is rare,—\$3 to \$5.

Horatio King is common. Good letters being only 50 cts. to \$1.

Montgomery Blair is not common—\$1 to \$2.

William Dennison wrote a large, plain black hand. He is scarce and runs for \$2 to \$4.

In the second administration Hugh McCulloch is common in DS at 50 cts.—and scarce in ALS—\$2 to \$4.

James Harlan is common—50 cts. to \$1.

Owing to the enormous amount of routine business occasioned by the war all of these cabinet officers signed immense numbers of LS—and hence they are nearly all common—generally 25 cts. to 50 cts.

Letters written by the cabinet officers to Mr. Lincoln himself have an especial interest and are worth about double the prices mentioned—and letters mentioning Mr. Lincoln in any way are also valuable.

Letters written to the different presidents are common in all collections,—but only those written to Washington and Lincoln have a greatly increased value on that account. Any letter written to Lincoln is worth \$1,—and the price rapidly rises with the importance of the writer. The men in the convention who nominated Lincoln,—and the electors of the various states who voted for him, have also a value.

In fact any manuscript referring to Mr. Lincoln,—even letters of unknown persons,—have a value.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

“For all the past of time reveals
A bridal dawn of thunder-peals
Wherever Thought has wed with Fact.” *Tennyson.*

Because of a prejudice among us for emphasizing anniversaries in multiples of five, and especially for observing the centenary, we find not only Americans but other peoples focusing their attention just now on the life and character of Abraham Lincoln. While our opportunities and natural disposition are at present most favorable to a comprehensive view, it may be well to gain a more complete conception of

our great hero,—to gauge the man himself more deeply, to regard him in his essential relation to the nation, and further, in his relation to modern social and political development in general.

Dr. Albert Shaw, in a scholarly, readable book, “Political Problems of American Development,” in setting forth the nature and meaning of our political life, makes it evident that the supreme American problem is national unity. From Colonial days the States in America represented widely diverse elements